



In the past year, the Smith County Republican Party has grown in diversity and inclusivity like never before. We're fortunate to have Hispanic American and African American leaders within our party in the roles of Vice-Chair, Primary Administrator, precinct chairs and Communications Director. These men and women are leaders within our community and we are proud to have them on board. We've hosted two Republican Party of Texas events and held a dramatically different, exciting County Convention. We are proud of our county and its voters and grateful for every voter who fulfills their rights as a citizen to vote.

In the United States, voters choose their leaders and I have been elected by the voters to serve as the Republican Party Chairman. There is a faction within the executive committee who seek to undermine the choice of Smith County's voters and remove me from my post by claiming I have abandoned it. Yes, I have been away from my community and my family for much longer than anticipated as I work to secure a future for them, however, I have kept in touch and stayed on top of things in Smith County and to say otherwise is untrue.

There are some in our community who seek to rule by intimidation, harassment, threats and manipulation. They seek to keep their establishment ways firmly entrenched in our county and are unwilling to welcome new individuals to the table. This has no place in the Republican Party of Smith County as all races, ages and genders are invited to work together toward a common goal.

There is a beautiful thing in our country called Democracy and it stands between freedom and absolute tyranny. In the early 90's I was given the opportunity by the Republican Party to travel overseas and speak on behalf of Democracy to those in countries coming out of Communist rule. I fought for Democracy then and I will do so now even if I am fighting within my own party. I will not give in, I will not resign and I will not remain silent. I look forward to 2020 when the citizens of our county will again have their say as their votes will determine not only this position but that of every person seeking office and it my hope that the voters of this county will choose Democracy over tyranny.

Brent L. Thompson
Smith County Republican Chairman
February 21, 2019